

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3221

S E C R E T ALGIERS 3151

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SS, MO, AG, PBOR, SP

SUBJECT: SPANISH SAHARA; ALGERIAN ANGLE ON POSSIBLE  
SPANISH-MOROCCAN DEAL

REF: STATE 252084 (TOSEC 160274)

1. WE OFFER FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS ON SPANISH-MOROCCAN  
SAHARA AGREEMENT WHICH KING HASSAN DESCRIBED IN REFTEL.

2. SHOULD AGREEMENT MATERIALIZE, ALGERIANS WILL CLEARLY  
BE ANGRY. THEY THOUGHT THINGS WERE GOING THEIR WAY ON  
SAHARA ISSUE, AND QTE CAPITULATION UNQTE TO HASSAN BY  
THEIR ERSTWHILE SPANISH ALLIES WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT  
FOR THEM TO SWALLOW. WE DOUBT THEY WILL TAKE DIRECT  
MILITARY ACTION IN COLONY (ALGIERS 3144 CONFIRMS THIS  
VIEW), BUT EXPECT THAT THEY WILL DO ALL THEY CAN TO BEEF  
UP F POLISARIO. RECENT INTELLIGENCE STRONGLY SUPPORTS  
THIS CONCLUSION. MORE IMPORTANT, THEY WILL STRIVE  
MIGHTILY AMONG THIRD WORLD BRETHEN TO MAKE SELF-DETERMINATION  
TRIUMPH IN UN OVER KING'S ELEGANT SOLUTION.

3. IF SPANISH-MOROCCAN AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED,  
ALGERIANS WILL ALSO LEAP TO CONCLUSION THAT MEETING OF  
MINDS CAME ABOUT THROUGH US GOOD OFFICES IN  
GENERAL AND AS RESULT OF ATHERTON TRIP IN PARTICULAR.  
TIMING OF ATHERTON VISIT TO MOROCCO, AND ITS TREATMENT  
AS MEDIATION EFFORT BY INTERNATIONAL AS WELL AS MOROCCAN

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MEDIA, WILL SOLIDIFY ALGERIAN SUSPICIONS. GOA MEDIA

HAVE BEEN PLAYING HEAVILY ON THEME THAT GREEN MARCH IS IMPERIALIST MACHINATION, AND IT WILL BE EASY STEP FOR ALGERIANS TO THINK OF US AS ONE OF PLOTTERS.

4. EFFECT ON OUR INTERESTS HERE OF POSSIBLE SPANISH-MOROCCAN DEAL THUS LIKELY BE NEGATIVE, THOUGH DIFFICULT TO SAY HOW MUCH SO. ALGERIANS ARE PRAGMATIC AND IN PAST HAVE NOT ALLOWED WHAT THEY REGARDED AS INIMICAL US POLICIES IN POLITICAL DOMAIN TO AFFECT OUR ECONOMIC RELATIONS. NEVERTHELESS, AS WE HAVE SAID BEFORE, OUR OVERALL RELATIONS HAVE BEEN IMPROVING (BOUMEDIENE FOR FIRST TIME HAS CHARACTERIZED THEM AS QUITE VERY GOOD UNQUOTE), AND ALGERIANS HAVE SHOWN THEMSELVES MORE MODERATE IN THIRD WORLD COUNCILS AND PERHAPS MORE WILLING TO LISTEN TO US. SHOULD WE BECOME IDENTIFIED IN THEIR MINDS WITH THEIR ENEMY OR ENEMIES ON ISSUE AS VITAL TO THEM AS SAHARA SEEMS TO BE, IT WILL DO US NO GOOD HERE.

5. IN LIGHT OF FOREGOING, RECOMMEND WE TAKE FOLLOWING STEPS:

A. DELIVER TO BOUMEDIENE MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY DESCRIBED IN PARA 8 D. OF REFTEL WHEN SCENARIO BEGINS TO SURFACE. IN ADDITION TO MAKING POINTS MENTIONED IN REFTEL, BELIEVE SUCH MESSAGE SHOULD STRESS SPECIFICALLY THAT WE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH SPANISH-MOROCCAN DEAL. TIMING OF DELIVERY OF MESSAGE WOULD DEPEND ON HOW SITUATION DEVELOPS.

B. REFRAIN FROM LOBBYING IN UN FOR SPANISH-MOROCCAN DEAL. TO DO SO WOULD BE VIOLATION OF NEUTRAL STANCE WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY SOUGHT TO MAINTAIN.

C. LEAVE ALGERIAN-MOROCCAN BORDER RATIFICATION QUESTION TO ALGERIANS AND MOROCCANS. ALGERIANS WOULD GIVE US NO CREDIT WHATSOEVER FOR MEDIATION EFFORT ON THIS PROBLEM, AND WE SUSPECT THAT WE WOULD ENCOUNTER VERY HEAVY SLEDDING WITH MOROCCANS IN SUCH A VENTURE.

6. DURING TELEPHONE CALL TO MOHAMED ABERKANE, DIRECTOR AMERICAN AFFAIRS AT FOREIGN MINISTRY TO THANK HIM FOR  
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HELPFUL ROLE BEING PLAYED BY ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR TO BEIRUT IN MATTER OF TWO KIDNAPPED AMERICANS, I TOOK OCCASION TO TELL HIM PRESS REPORTS (BBC AMONG OTHERS) THAT AHERTON INVOLVED IN MEDIATION EFFORT WERE UNTRUE. ABERKANE SAID HE HAD SEEN AFP REPORT LAST NIGHT THAT HASSAN HAD SAID HE READY POSTPONE MARCH IN EXCHANGE FOR DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS WITH SPAIN UNDER AUSPICES UNITED STATES. I SAID I PRESUMED HE MEANT UNITED NATIONS. HE SAID AFP TICKER

CLEARLY SAID UNITED STATES, BUT CORRESPONDENT MAY HAVE BEEN MISTAKEN. IF HASSAN DID MAKE SUCH STATEMENT IT WILL NOT HELP MATTERS.

7. WE AWAIT WITH INTEREST EMBASSY MADRID'S COMMENTS ON SPANISH VOLTE FACE DESCRIBED BY HASSAN.

8. RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT REPEAT THIS MESSAGE TO MADRID, NOUAKCHOTT, RABAT AND USUN.  
PARKER

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